



PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 6530.0253-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of:)
Richard MONTALVO et al.) Group Art Unit: 3739
Application No.: 09/988,125) Examiner: Unassigned
Filed: November 19, 2001)
For: ENDOSCOPIC SURGICAL)
INSTRUMENT)

**Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

REPLY TO THE NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION

In response to the Notice of Informal Application dated December 14, 2001, a period for response to which has been extended through April 15, 2002 by the attached request for a two-month extension of time, Applicants respectfully submit Declaration papers that include the citizenship of each inventor for the above-identified patent application and a copy of the notice.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

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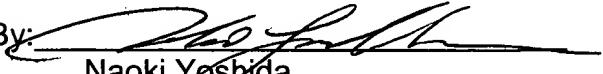
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Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 15, 2002

By:


Naoki Yoshida
Reg. No. 48,108

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
09/988,125	11/19/2001	Richard Montalvo	6530.0253-00

CONFIRMATION NO. 8172



OC000000007199609

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Date Mailed: 12/14/2001

NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION

This application is considered to be informal since it does not comply with the regulations for the reason(s) indicated below. The period within to correct the informalities noted below and avoid abandonment is set in the accompanying Office action.

A new oath or declaration, identifying this application number is required. The oath or declaration does not comply with 37 CFR 1.63 in that it:

- does not identify the citizenship of each inventor.

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the reply.*

Customer Service Center

Initial Patent Examination Division (703) 308-1202

PART 2 - COPY TO BE RETURNED WITH RESPONSE

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